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USIB-M-56  
8 September 1959

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Minutes of  
Fifty-sixth Meeting  
United States Intelligence Board  
USIB Conference Room, Administration Building  
Central Intelligence Agency, at 1400, 8 September 1959

Director of Central Intelligence  
Allen W. Dulles  
Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Hugh S. Cumming, Jr., Director of Intelligence and Research,  
Department of State

General Graves B. Erskine, Assistant for Special Operations to the  
Secretary of Defense

Brigadier General Richard Collins, Acting Assistant Chief of Staff  
for Intelligence, Department of the Army

Rear Admiral Laurence H. Frost, Assistant Chief of Naval Operations  
for Intelligence, Department of the Navy

Major General James H. Walsh, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence,  
United States Air Force

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[REDACTED] National Security Agency

Major General Robert A. Breitweiser, Director for Intelligence,  
The Joint Staff

Mr. Harry S. Traynor, Atomic Energy Commission representative to  
the USIB

Mr. Fred A. Frohbose, acting for Federal Bureau of Investigation  
representative to the USIB

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1. Approval of Minutes

- a. 25 August Meeting  
(USIB-M-54, including  
Special Annex)

Approved as circulated.

- b. 26 August Meeting  
(USIB-M-55)

Approved as circulated.

2. Report on Status of Certain  
Negotiations

(USIB-C-29.6/3, 3 September;  
USIB-C-29.6/2, 20 August;  
Special Annex to USIB-M-54,  
item 4)

Noted.

3. Watch Committee Report  
No. 473 and No. 474

Noted.

4. SNIE 11-9-59  
Probable Soviet Position  
on Nuclear Weapons Testing

- a. Approved as amended, including a secret level annex.
- b. Agreed that this estimate should be published also with a  
Restricted Data version of the annex. \*
- c. Agreed to release this estimate to USIA (without Restricted  
Data Annex).

\* This version will be referred to as SNIE 11-9A-59.

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5. Discussion of "Implications of Soviet-Ethiopian Aid Deal"  
(Memorandum to USIB, 2 September;  
USIB-M-54, item 6 b)

Noted this memorandum with the understanding that the Board, within the next few months, will consider the desirability of producing a national intelligence estimate on Ethiopia.

6. Special National Intelligence Estimate on Laos

The Board approved an oral request by the Department of State that a special estimate on certain aspects of the situation in Laos be prepared on a crash basis to come before the Board for approval at its next regular meeting.

7. Release of NIE 30-59  
Main Currents in the Arab World  
(Memorandum to USIB, 27 August)

8. Release of Soviet Nuclear Weapons  
Test Information to Certain Foreign  
Liaison Services  
(USIB-D-17.6/2, 18 August)

After discussing various factors bearing on this action, the Board agreed that the AEC and CIA should explore the matter further by means of informal talks.

9. Emergency Planning  
(USIB-D-7.1/5, 31 August)

a. Agreed to distribute this checklist to the committees as guidance for their emergency planning.

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b. Agreed to defer the target date for committees' emergency plans from 1 October to 1 December.

c. Agreed that this emergency planning activity should be coordinated by a steering committee made up of USIB representatives as desired by Board members, and chaired by [redacted] as a representative of the Office of the Deputy Director for Coordination, CIA.

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10. [redacted]  
(USIB-D-30, 3/5, 3 September;  
USIB-D-30, 3/4, 21 August)

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Approved this reply as drafted.

11. Advance Portion of NIE 11-5-59  
Soviet Capabilities in Guided Missiles  
and Space Vehicles  
(USIB-M-52, item 2)

Approved this advance portion as amended with the understanding that it would be printed and given standard distribution at this time; it would later be reprinted without change as part of the complete NIE 11-5-59, unless new evidence required its amendment.

12. Review of Sensitive Situations

The Chairman mentioned current concern and actions with respect to Laos.

Adjournment: 1635

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[redacted]  
Deputy Executive Secretary

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SECRETARY'S NOTE

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2. With reference to USIB-M-45, item 5 b, fourth paragraph, the Chairman has received a copy of a letter from [ ] o Mr. J. Patrick Coyne, Representative on Internal Security on the NSC, dated 7 August 1959. It is our understanding that each Board member has received a copy and that from the point of view of the Intelligence Board the matter should be considered closed.

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